

Please cancel claims 1-13;

Please add new claims 14-22 as follows:

1-13.           Cancelled.

14.     (New) A composition for generating neutralizing self-antibodies against autologous IL-15, wherein the composition comprises IL-15 as an antigen.

15.     (New) The composition according to claim 14, wherein the IL-15 is a recombinant protein obtained in E. coli and wherein the IL-15 has a glycosylation pattern different from autologous IL-15.

16.     (New) A method for treating IL-15 expression-related diseases in a patient, the method comprises administering to the patient an effective therapeutic dose of a composition comprising human IL-15, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.

17.     (New) A method for treating autoimmune diseases in a patient, the method comprises administering to a patient an effective therapeutic dose of a composition comprising human IL-15, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.

18.     (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease or psoriasis.

19. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the composition is used concurrently with an anti-inflammatory drug or cytokine antagonist.

20. (New) A method for inhibiting IL-15 as a growth factor in a leukemia patient, the method comprises administering to the patient an effective therapeutic doses a composition comprising human IL-15, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the composition is used concurrently with an anti-inflammatory drug or cytokine antagonist.

22. (New) A method for generating a neutralizing antibody response against autologous IL-15 comprising administering to a host a composition comprising human IL-15, wherein the IL-15 is an antigen.